Suddenly
from heaven
there came a sound
like the rush of a violent
wind, and it filled
the entire house
where they were sitting
Acts 2:2

Soundings

News and Information from the
Northwest Washington Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Volume 2 Number 1 January 2005

PROCESSED
JAN 03 2005
GTU LIBRARY

ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson's 2004 Christmas Message

The shepherds were amazed by God's messengers—and then became them! Not that anyone in Bethlehem would have confused that dusty crew with the glorious angelic host, but the shepherds carried the angels' message as they left the manger: the wondrous news of the birth of the Messiah and the astonishing announcement of peace on earth. Throughout their world, the seemingly insignificant shepherds declared the same glorious words as the angel Gabriel. Yes, they were still in the world with all its suffering and ambiguity, all its division and injustice. Yes, they were still liable to every human weakness and fault. But now they had a clear part to play in God's story. They had something spectacular to tell. Their voices joined a larger—and heavenly—chorus.

Best of all, this news is a very present wonder. The promised child is born to us this day. God comes down—in the Word made flesh—bringing life to all. To hear this news is to risk being changed. The faith to believe it and the courage to retell it means profound conversion.

As we gather this Christmas in our congregations, families, and communities to hear the wondrous story, we also can be amazed by God's messengers—and then become them.

continued on page 14

In This Issue--Highlights

Page 2 ..... Receive Early Release
Page 3 ..... A Word from the Bishop
Page 4 ..... Synod Council Update
Page 6 ..... State Advocate's Corner
Page 7 ..... Restructure and the ELCA
Page 8 - 9 ..... 2005 Synod Assembly News
Page 10-12 ..... News and Notes
Page 13 ..... Within Our Family
Page 14 ..... Youth Update/Job Openings
Page 15 ..... Synod Transisitons/Mobility

Receive Early Release

of Report and Recommendations of ELCA Studies on Sexuality

There is still time. If you are a rostered leader of the ELCA and you want to receive the early release of the report and recommendations from the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality, you need to send your email address to: leaderinfo@elca.org.

Our partners in ministry in the ELCA have been working diligently to deliver this report to our rostered leaders before it becomes available to the general public. The plan is for Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson to share the official Task Force report and recommendations with the members of the Conference of Bishops on Tuesday, January 11, 2005. Then, on Wednesday, January 12, 2005, rostered ELCA leaders who have requested to receive the report prior to its public release will receive an email with the private website location (URL). This will allow rostered leaders to read through the report and recommendations before the scheduled ELCA news conference on Thursday, January 13, 2005.

Remember this notification is only for rostered leaders. Please make sure that others do not see the report prior to it being made public.

Soundings *is published monthly (with one combined issue May/June) by the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 5519 Phinney Ave. N, Seattle, WA 98103-5829. 206-783-9292 or 1-800-244-6997 (Wash. State); Fax: 206-783-9833. Email: office@lutheransnw.org. Website: www.lutheransnw.org.*

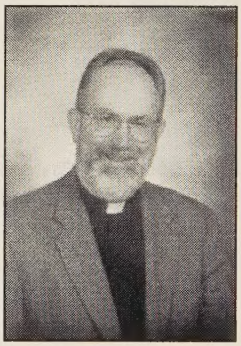
Synod Office Staff:
***The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, Bishop**—boerger@lutheransnw.org*
***The Rev. Jan Nesse, Assistant to the Bishop**—nesse@lutheransnw.org*
***Jim Goeben, Webmaster**—jim@lutheransnw.org*
***Elaine Harrison, Office Assistant**—elaine@lutheransnw.org*
***Margit Peiffle, Communication Specialist**—margit@lutheransnw.org*
***General Office Information**—office@lutheransnw.org*

Deadline for the February 2005 issue of Soundings and The Spirit is Monday, Jan. 3. Send information to: Margit Peiffle, 21721 88th Ave. NE, Arlington, WA 98223; margit@lutheransnw.org; 425-299-6667; fax 360-435-5955.

Permission is granted for congregations to copy Soundings and The Spirit. Newsletters are available to download at www.lutheransnw.org.

A Word From The Bishop

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'."
Matthew 25:40 NRSV



The Reverend Chris Boerger

Three years into this call, I am still learning the various opportunities and responsibilities of this office.

During mid-November I participated for the first time in a ministry review discussion with five of our ELCA affiliated Social Ministry Organizations that serve in the territory of this Synod. This review is supposed to occur once very four years, but in the memory of most of the participants, this was the first. A representative of the Division for Church and Society (who in this case was deployed to work with Lutheran Services in America), myself and, where appropriate, a representative of the Northwest District, LCMS conducted these reviews.

First, I am impressed with the scope and the commitment of the ministries these five agencies. Four work with the elderly or frail. The Compass Center is rapidly expanding its ministry to meet the increased needs of the homeless and the forgotten. The quality of the work speaks well of the commitment of the Lutheran Church to the least of these in our community.

One repeated theme of these meetings was the strong desire on the part of these ministries to be connected to the congregations of this Synod. Most of them are "owned" by corporations of congregations. I remember that selecting a congregation representative to these corporate meetings was an often forgotten part of our annual meeting. The council would later, quickly, find someone to go to these meetings or simply not appoint someone. These agencies are clear in their desire for this continued connection with the church.

As we move towards the Annual Meeting season of our life together, may I remind and request that you take seriously the connections you have with the ministry we have in common. Please select the requested corporate members and inform the agency who these members will be. Give those elected opportunities to tell the agencies' story in your congregational life. We are doing much together in the name of Jesus.

Synod Council Update

by Sharon Greenwood, Vice President

206-283-5546
sharon5546@comcast.net

The Synod Council met on November 20 at Faith Lutheran Church in Redmond.

Business conducted by the Council included actions as follows:

- Approved the 2005 Synod Assembly budget of $33,625 and registration fees of $90 for voting members, $55 for retired voting members and observers, and $25 for visitors.
- Established a deadline of March 1, 2005, for receipt of nominations to be included in the Nominating Committee report to the 2005 Synod Assembly. Nominations from the floor may be made in writing during the first Plenary Session until noon on Friday, May 20, 2005.
- Established a deadline of March 1, 2005, for receipt of resolutions to be considered by the 2005 Synod Assembly. Established a separate deadline of noon, May 9, 2005, for resolutions that respond to actions of the Church Council meeting of April 2005 and that include a memorial to the Churchwide Assembly. Resolutions received during the first Plenary Session, until noon on Friday, May 20, 2005, may be considered if determined by the Synod Council or the Reference and Counsel Committee to be either of overriding importance or germane to the issues of the Synod Assembly agenda, as provided in the Standing Rules.
- Approved Standing Rules for proposal to the 2005 Synod Assembly with the inclusion of a new rule related to resolutions, as follows: 5.F. In an effort to put resolutions in proper form, and eliminate duplication when similar resolutions are offered, the Reference and Counsel Committee is authorized to make substantive alterations in the resolutions, including consolidating similar or duplicate resolutions. Resolutions that are considered for substantive alterations or consolidation shall be determined by a 2/3 vote of the Reference and Counsel Committee. If sponsors of the resolutions have provided phone numbers and email addresses, they may be consulted regarding the changes and/or consolidation of their submitted resolutions, if time permits.
- Appointed Hascal, Sjoholm & Company, P.S. Certified Public Accountants, Everett, to audit the Synod financial statements for the three fiscal years ending January 31, 2005, 2006, and 2007.
- Awarded scholarships from the Howard Hayden Scholarship Fund to Holly McHale Larsen, Erika Ensign, Michael Bowers, Ashley Phelps, and Jenae Yandell all from Bothell First Lutheran Church, Bothell, and to Linea Johnson from St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Bellevue.

continued on page 5

Report of the Synod Treasurer

By Richard Bridges, Treasurer

206-728-5627
richardb@millionairclub.org

Good day to everyone. Hope this finds you healthy, happy, sassy and wise. And not too much heavier from the Thanksgiving repast.

This synodical expression of our "church in this place" is on the verge of having its best year financially since forever; which, of course, only goes back to '87.

The "money in" factor is running 3.3% ahead of last year and almost 5% ahead of the five-year weighted average. No, we won't receive as much as was/is budgeted, but if the "money out" factor remains at the current 95% of budget ratio, we'll finish the year in very good shape.

With reference to the development of a budget for the assembly in May, a process that is already under way, feel free to email me with ideas, concerns, suggestions or comments. The one really cool thing about church finances—personal contributions not included—is that the whole venue is a public domain kind of thing; always open and ready for inspection. So get involved, if you want to. It can't do nothing' but help.

continued from page 4

Synod Council Update

- Approved a letter of understanding between the Synod and Grace Chinese Lutheran Church, Seattle, for the use of the property located at 538 N.E. 127th Street, Seattle.
- Recognized the Indonesian Lutheran Fellowship as a "synodically authorized worshiping community".
- Appointed David Swartling (Bethany, Bainbridge Island) parliamentarian for the 2005 Synod Assembly; Rev. Chris Berry (Campus Pastor at WWU) chair of the 2005 Synod Assembly Reference and Counsel Committee; Tom Jurewicz (Peace, Seattle) Board of Outreach and Evangelism; Gary Sievert (Prince of Peace Shoreline) Board of Outreach and Evangelism.
- Learned that David Swartling (Bethany, Bainbridge Island) has been appointed parliamentarian for the 2005 ELCA Churchwide Assembly; and has, therefore, withdrawn as a voting member from the Synod. Mark Kremen (Teo) (University Lutheran), previously appointed to be an alternate, will fill the position. The Council appointed Glenn Ryder as an alternate voting member to the 2005 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

For additional information or to offer input to the Synod Council, please contact me or any member of the council. You may find contact information for council members at www.lutheransnw.org/about/council.asp. The next Synod Council meeting will take place on Saturday, January 29, at the Shalom Center at Western Washington University in Bellingham.

State Advocate's Corner

by The Rev. Paul Benz

206-464-4133
pbenz@lcsnw.org

New Year greetings to you! On Monday, January 10, the 59th session of the Washington State legislature convenes. It is a time for the Church to bear witness. It is a time for the Church to pray, listen and act.

Pray: During the Sundays of this legislative session I urge every congregation to offer prayers for the three state legislators representing your area and the governor. (We should know by Jan. 1 who has won—we pray!). Depending on where your church is located you could have members in more than one district.

Listen: I urge your congregation to listen to the voices of the poor and vulnerable in your church and in your local neighborhoods. Do you have a food bank or participate in one, serve a meal program or participate in one, have an overnight shelter or help with one, or do you reach out in some way to those who are unemployed or going through difficult economic times? Listen to the stories of those without a home or without health care coverage.

Act:

1. Post the 1-800-562-6000 state legislative hotline number in the Sunday bulletin, in a monthly newsletter or on a bulletin board - then use it. You can leave up to four messages (the governor and your three legislators). During the session the hotline is open from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. and on Saturdays 9 a.m. until noon.
2. Attend Lutheran Advocacy Day on Tuesday, March 1. If that date doesn't work, there is always Church Advocacy Day and Catholic Advocacy Day on Thursday, Feb. 24.
3. Consider attending one of four statewide legislative briefings:
   Spokane: Saturday, Jan. 23; 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
   Tacoma: Thursday, Jan. 27; 7 - 9 p.m.
   Seattle: Saturday, Feb. 5; 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
   Yakima: Saturday, Feb. 12
4. Have your church be the host of a town hall meeting for your local state legislators during the session.
5. Respond to the LPPO email alerts that you receive. If you are not receiving these alerts, and would like to, please contact me.
6. Be a legislative alert network coordinator in your district when a critical issue is up for a vote.

There are many ways you and I can be God's witnesses. One way is through the baptismal vocation of being an advocate for the poor and vulnerable in the political process. I pray that in this New Year you and your congregation will be active advocates by praying, listening, and acting!

Restructure and the ELCA

This is an excerpt from an ELCA news release. To see the full release, visit www.elca.org and click on news and events. The news release is dated 11/19/04

The Church Council of the ELCA approved a final report and recommendations on restructuring the ELCA churchwide organization. It transmitted to the 2005 ELCA Churchwide Assembly (Aug. 8 -14, 2005) the report and recommendations for final consideration.

The plan was presented to the church by the Rev. Mark S. Hanson, ELCA presiding bishop. Between now and the assembly, ELCA leaders will consult with many people to develop possible budgets and staffing configurations, he said. After the assembly—and assuming amendments to governing and policy documents are adopted—the churchwide organization will enter the design's implementation phase, he said. That phase will include determining leadership for various churchwide units.

The proposal reorders the work of the churchwide organization into five program units: Church in Society; Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission; Global Mission; Multicultural Ministries; and Vocation and Education. Augsburg Fortress Publishers and Women of the ELCA remain as separately incorporated units.

The Office of the Presiding Bishop will retain its present functions and be responsible for ecumenical and interreligious relations; human resources; research and evaluation; synodical relations; and worship. The Office of the Treasurer will retain its present functions, including information technology and management services. The Office of the Secretary will retain its present roles.

There are four service units in the proposal: Communication, including a new relationship with The Lutheran, the magazine of the ELCA; Development Services, including the ELCA Foundation and the separately incorporated Endowment Fund; and the separately incorporated Mission Investment Fund and Board of Pensions, both of which retain their current roles.

An initial draft of the proposal was released Aug. 25. Review and comment on the draft was provided by many professional and lay leaders in the church, including members of churchwide boards and committees. Some of their comments led to changes that were incorporated in the proposal presented to and approved by the council

Already, the churchwide staff has begun working into the proposed structure, Hanson said. "The staff is not waiting for permission," he said.

Hanson thanked the Rev. Charles S. Miller, ELCA executive for administration, Office of the Presiding Bishop, for his leadership in developing the plan during the past two and one-half years. He also thanked the council's planning and evaluation committee, churchwide executive directors and staff.

2005 Synod Assembly News

by Pastor Jeff Russell, Chair, 2005 Synod Assembly and pastor at Central, Everett

425-252-8291
425-252-1966 fax
jtr82@comcast.net

Greetings from the Sno-Isle Cluster. Our cluster is the for the 2005 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly to be held in Everett, May 20-21. Our them is *Marked with the Cross of Christ forever.*

Home of the Aquasox, the Silvertips, big planes and big boats, Scoop Jackson, one of the largest Marina's on the west coast, and the memory of pulp and lumber mills. Only one mill is left in Milltown and the air is fresh and clear.

Seated at round tables in the spacious ballroom of the new downtown Everett Events Center we will have a view of the Cascades off one end and Mount Boerger at the other. More importantly we will do what is important for Christ's church to do: come together, worship, learn, deliberate, decide, and leave for witness and service.

When we leave we will be marked not with a salmon or crableg, neither sawdust nor a two by four, not a navy anchor nor a Boeing insignia, not a baseball bat nor a hockey puck. We will come together and leave with a reminder of what we arrived with, leaving with what has been on our brows since our baptism. We will come together and go forth with that which eternally and powerfully unites us beyond all our temporal disagreements, for we are *Marked with the Cross of Christ forever.*

For more information about the 2005 Synod Assembly, please visit www.lutheransnw.org/news/Assembly2005. More information will be added as it becomes available.

Nominations for the 2005 Synod Assembly

by Claudia LaFollette, Member, 2005 Nominating Committee

clafollette@hewm.com
360-424-9035

The 2005 Synod Assembly will elect persons to serve on the Consultation Committee and the Committee on Discipline of the Northwest Washington Synod.

Both committees consist of 12 persons, of whom half shall be ordained ministers and half shall be laypersons. Each is elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive reelection.

In certain situations, including those concerning substantive congregational disagreements or allegations against rostered persons, congregations or individual members, a synod bishop may utilize a panel from the members of the Consultation Committee for assistance in resolving the situation. If formal charges have been presented, a synod bishop utilizes members of the Committee on Discipline to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to sustain the charges and, under certain circumstances, to decide the discipline to be imposed.

A complete description of the functions of both committees are set forth in Chapter 20 of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing

continued on page 9

Deadlines and Resolutions

for the 2005 Synod Assembly

by Rev. Christopher D. Berry Chairperson

revrefcdberry@comcast.net

This is a call for resolutions to be submitted to the 2005 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly. The synod council has adopted the following deadlines for the submission of resolutions:

- **Any resolutions to be considered by the 2005 Synod Assembly shall be received in the Synod Office by March 1, 2005,** unless the Synod Council or the Reference and Counsel Committee determines that it is consistent with provisions of the Standing Rules adopted by the Synod Assembly for consideration
- For the 2005 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly, any resolutions responding to actions of the Church Council meeting of April 2005, that include a memorial to the Churchwide Assembly, shall be considered as having 'overriding importance' and 'germane' to the assembly and shall be considered by the Reference and Counsel Committee for distribution prior to the Synod Assembly if they are received in the Synod Office no later than noon on Monday, May 9, 2005.

For the Reference and Counsel Committee to do its job correctly, we must have the information that is provided on the resolution submittal form, including daytime phone number and email address of the person responsible for submitting the resolution. We are committed to working with the drafters of the resolutions, but we need to be able to correspond if needed.

The form may be found on the Synod Web Site at: www.lutheransnw.org/news/Assembly2004/ResolutionForm.pdf.

If anyone would like to submit a resolution to the Assembly, but needs information or help in drafting their resolution, please email me with your questions. A member of the committee will be more than happy to help you in your endeavor.

continued from page 8

Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and in Chapter 17 of the Synod constitution.

Nominations for 2005 Synod Assembly

A nomination form is included in this issue of Soundings and may also be found on the Synod website at www.lutheransnw.org. Please note that the nomination forms will be reproduced as submitted, except information regarding the person submitting the nomination. For biographical information to be included in the Synod Assembly business packets, this form is due to the Nominating Committee by March 1, 2005. Send nominations to: Nominating Committee; Northwest Washington Synod; 5519 Phinney Ave North; Seattle, WA 98103-5829; fax 206-783-9833; email office@lutheransnw.org.

Partners for Nurture

Theologian Marva Dawn who shares her thoughts on faith, worship, education and justice issues around the world is the keynote speaker at the *2005 Partners for Nurture* event.

This year's theme is *Partnership: Living the Faith.* The theme is based on the Bible verse, "Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you." Philippians 4:9 NIV

Join others as *Partners for Nurture* celebrates its 25th Anniversary from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, January 29, at Trinity Lutheran College, 4221 228th Ave SE, Issaquah. Registration begins at 8 a.m. with opening worship at 8:45 a.m. Costs are $30 per individual, for groups of five or more; $35 per individual for groups less than five; and $45 per person after January 17, 2005.

Workshops will be offered throughout the day. To review the available workshops visit www.tlc.edu/partners. To register, please contact Bobbi Luedke at 253-630-3813 or email DRJCL4@aol.com. Registration materials have been mailed to all congregations.

Christian Neighbors

Developing Worship Opportunities

(This is an excerpt from an article written by Dr. Rocky Piro, chair, Synod Ecumenical Commission. For the full article, please visit the commission's page on the synod website at www.lutheransnw.org/committees/cea.)

One of the strongest witnesses Christians can share in their neighborhoods and communities is to gather as one to celebrate the good news in Jesus Christ. Many congregations in the Northwest Washington Synod already join with other congregations and faith communities for Thanksgiving services in late November. A number of churches have also developed a tradition of joint palm processions with neighboring Christians on Passion Sunday. Typically such processions begin at a neighborhood park or community center and then the group walks together in hymn and praise to a point or points where each congregation heads toward its own building. Finally, a growing number of synod congregations participate with near-by churches in the services of Holy Week, particularly Good Friday and the Saturday Great Vigil of Easter.

Following are just a few of the weekday festivals in the church year that lend themselves to joint worship events: Jan. 6, Epiphany of Our Lord; Feb. 2, Presentation of Our Lord; early spring, Ash Wednesday; March 25, Annunciation of Our Lord; The Three Days—Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil; late spring, Ascension of Our Lord (always on a Thursday); Sept. 14, Holy Cross Day; Oct. 4, Saint Francis; Oct. 31, Reformation Day; and Nov. 1, All Saints Day.

For additional information or resources, please contact Dr. Rocky Piro, chair of the Ecumenical Commission, at 206-542-1314 or email REPiro@aol.com.

Sharing Our Faith Stories

If you receive The Lutheran magazine then you know that you receive something special with your subscription. Four times a year a special supplement is inserted in the magazine and you are able to read how we, in the Northwest Washington Synod, are living out our faith—celebrating our love of Jesus Christ.

To continue to share these stories of faith with you and others, the Synod's Communication Committee needs your help. (We are now being asked by The Lutheran magazine to pay for the four supplements. There is no line item in the Synod's budget for this cost.) The Communication Committee believes that the supplements are important and that we need to continue to share these stories through the supplements.

Each supplement costs $350 and reaches 7,500 households. By supporting one or more of these inserts you can be assured that our faith stories will continue to be celebrated. And your support will be mentioned in the supplement. Can you help? Please contact Margit Peiffle, Communication Specialist, at 425-299-6667 or email margit@lutheransnw.org. Thank you.

Update From The ELCA Board of Pensions

- **Health Risk Assessment**—From Jan. 6 through March. 13, rostered leaders and church workers have the opportunity to take the Mayo Clinic's health risk assessment to help them confidentially evaluate and manage their health. More information at www.elcaforwellness.org.
- **New Open Enrollment Period**— An open enrollment period is now available for pastors, rostered laypersons and other employees (and their dependents) who upon enrollment would normally be required to satisfy a six-month waiting period for health benefits and an 18-month pre-existing exclusionary period for disability and survivor benefits. The open enrollment period is Dec. 1 – 31, benefits effective Jan. 1. Those enrolling during the open enrollment period will not have a six-month wait for health coverage, and the 18-month pre-existing exclusionary period for disability and survivor benefits will be reduced to six months. Contact the Board of Pensions at www.elcabop.org/contact_us.
- **Watch For 2005 Plan Changes**—For a full list of health plan and prescription drug changes, see www.elcabop.org/news_events/plan_changes/.
- **Flexible Spending Account Limit Increased**—Flexible spending accounts can help employees manage out-of-pocket expenses for health care or day care costs. The annual health care account reimbursement limit will increase to $2,500 beginning Jan. 1. To learn more, see www.elcabop.org/resources_tools/administrators/fsa.asp

The Synod's local regional representative is

The Rev. Lowell Knutson; 8003 Sandpoint Way NE, B-23, Seattle, WA 98115;

206-528-7422; email knutsonlw@jps.net

News and Notes

- Congratulations to **Rev. Phyllis B. Anderson** who will become the seventh president of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (PLTS) on Feb. 1, 2005. Pastor Anderson is currently the director of the Institute for Ecumenical and Theological Studies in Seattle, which serves 10 denominations and two religious umbrella groups in the northwest United States.
- Congratulations to **First Lutheran and St. Brendan Catholic Parish, both of Bothell.** The congregations received were honored with the Rauschenbusch Award for their courageous public support in welcoming Tent City IV to the Eastside.
- **Rev. Paul Fauske, pastor at Holy Trinity on Mercer Island,** was recently one of three guests on *NPR, Tuesday on Weekday,* speaking on the topic *Church Going Folks.* The guests discussed what people are hearing from the pulpit and the differences among the social, economic and geographic spectrums.
- Congratulations to **Rev. Paul Benz, LPPO,** who recently received a community leadership award from the A. Philip Randolph Inst. Seattle chapter. APRI is a national African-american labor-church organization that advocates for economic justice.
- When the **109th Congress of the United States** is sworn in on Jan. 3, it will include 19 Lutherans—10 Democrats and nine Republicans. Representatives from Washington State include Norman D. Dicks, D-Wash. 6th (ELCA) and Dave Reichart, R-Wash. 8th (LC-MS).
- The movie ***Luther*** went on sale at major retail outlets in November. A $5 rebate coupon can be found in the latest Thrivent magazine.
- Videos and DVDs are now available from the event ***Dialogue at the Crossroads.*** Contact Denny Park in Seattle. Cost is $20 per copy.

Video Resources

In The Resource Center

To reserve videos, contact Region 1 at 206-624-0093, ext. 100

In The Region 1 Resource Center

All Passions of Life: Women Building Global Community–V-1360

This resource is a video with accompanying Bible Study and relates to the "passions of life" of women around the world. The viewer sees women, hears voices, and witnesses situations that reveal Christ's presence among all people. Christ's unifying presence challenges us to recognize our similarities with these women and to be and act in solidarity with them. When we focus on the similarities, rather than on cultural and geographical differences, we live out our calling to be the Body of Christ. As the Body of Christ, we experience together all passions of life.

Within Our Family

To Keep In Our Prayers...

† **Rev. Jerry Buss, Oak Harbor in Oak Harbor,** was recently diagnosed with a benign brain tumor and underwent surgery at UCLA on October 11. He is now in Portland for radiation treatment and to participate in some sabbatical learning studies. Cards can be sent to Oak Harbor Lutheran Church, 1253 NW Second Ave, Oak Harbor, WA 98277.

† **Rev. Brian Beistel, Luther Memorial in Seattle**, was recently hospitalized for blood clots in his lungs and one in his leg, following a long siege of respiratory problems. He is now recuperating at home and is responding well to a treatment of blood thinners and rest. Cards may be sent to his home address: 14017 15th Ave. N. E. #202K, Seattle, WA 98125.

† The family of **Rev. Alan Hoagland** who passed away on December 5. He and his wife, Alice, were living in Modesto, Calif. Cards may be sent to: 2345 Scenic Drive, #238, Modesto, CA 95355.

† The family of **Rev. Norman Prestbye** who passed away at the Tacoma Lutheran Home on November 24. Rev. Prestbye is survived by his wife, Catherine. Daughter Arletta is an Associate in Ministry at Queen Ann in Seattle and daughter-in-law Rev. Jane Prestbye is pastor at Kent in Kent. Cards may be sent to: Catherine S. Prestbye, c/o Arletta Anderson, 911 Ninth St., Mukilteo, WA 98275

† **Cherilyn Anderson, wife of Rev. Arnold Anderson,** is now in remission.

† **Rev. Donna Reilly Williams** is recovering from ankle surgery on November 17. Recovery will require eight weeks in bed.

† **Rev. Paul Wuest** is undergoing treatment for a recurrence of cancer. Cards may be sent to: 12718 SE 254th Ct; Kent, WA 98031; prwuest@comcast.net.

† **Rev. Robert Moylan (ret.)** as he continues to deal with progressive muscular dystrophy.

† **Rev. Jim Schoeld (ret.)** as he continues to learn to do new things.

† At the regular **Tuesday worship and synod staff meeting,** we pray for our pastors, churches and members. We pray for the people of Iraq, Afghanistan and all people experiencing concern. We pray for peace.

Within Our Family depends upon you—not only for prayers, but also for your prayer requests. Contact the synod office with any additions or changes to this column at office@lutheransnw.org or 206-783-9292, toll free 1-800-244-6997.

Youth

You Can Do It

Building Teams for Effective Youth Ministry

Building Teams for Effective Youth Ministry Seminar—This is a one-of-a-kind event for anyone who has a passion for youth ministry. This event will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on January 22, 2005, at Bethlehem in Marysville. You can expect to learn: A Theological perspective for team based Youth Ministry; Team Building, starting small and dreaming big; Youth Culture, recognizing your environment and setting; Practicalities, some program highlights on what has worked well at other team-based ministry churches. Cost is only $12 per person or $7 per person with a group of three or more. Register today! Call Bethlehem in Marysville at 360-659-2022. This event is sponsored by the Synod Youth Committee.

Employment Opportunities

Assistant to Ministry

Cross of Christ in Bellevue's Crossroads neighborhood seeks a full-time Assistant to Ministry (equivalent to an Executive Assistant) to work with professional ministry staff and help the congregation reach its ministry goals.

Responsibilities include coordinating workflow, overseeing publications, filing, managing support staff. The successful candidate will be solution oriented, able to handle challenging customers, fluent in Microsoft Office Suite, able to communicate in written and verbal English, familiar with church "work" (not required to have been employed by a church.) Cover letter/resume to: Pastor Tim Wolbrecht, Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, 411-156th Ave NE, Bellevue WA 98007. Email: PastorWolbrecht@cofclc.org.

continued from page 1

Bishop Hanson's Christmas Message

Yes, we are still in the world with all its suffering and ambiguity, all its division and injustice. Yes, we are still liable to every human weakness and fault. But we, too, have a clear part to play in God's story. We have something spectacular to tell. Our voices join a larger—and heavenly—chorus. Receiving God's love in the Word made flesh, how can we keep from singing? How can we keep from going into every corner of our lives and world to proclaim the Good News? The Word does its amazing work not only in us but surely through us. Yes, even us!

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." (Isaiah 52:7 NRSV)

Editor's Note: For the most up-to-date listing of transitions and mobility please visit our website at www.lutheransnw.org and click on Leadership. That website page is updated weekly, when necessary.

Transitions

	Location/Event	Effective Date
Anniversaries		
Trinity	Everett, Centennial	10/31/2004
Central	Everett, Centennial	12/2004
Retirements		
Donald H. Maier		10/1/2004
Deaths		
Rev. Alan Hoagland		12/5/2004
Rev. Norman Prestbye		11/24/2004

Mobility

In Call Process	Position	Status	Current Pastor, Interim Pastor, or Supply Pastor
Bellevue, Cross of Christ	PR	TR	Tim Wolbrecht
Bellingham, Our Saviour's	PR	TR	James Miley, Interim
Burien, Glendale	PR	I	Douglas Stensby, Interim
Camano, Camano	PR	TR	Chris Anderson, Interim
Edmonds, St. Matthew	PR	TR	Dennis Schaffert, Interim
Everett, Faith	PR	TR	Interim pending
Everett, Our Savior's	A	P	David Parks, Pastor
Mountlake Terrace, Bethesda	PR	TR	Steve Nelson, Interim
Renton, Cross & Crown	PR	P	Kate Schlechter, Supply
Seattle, Peace	PR	C	Linda Nou, Interim
Seattle, St. Paul's of Shorewood	PR	TR	Gary Larson, Interim
Trinity, Point Roberts	PR	P	Supply

Mobility Position Key:

PR = Pastor
A = Associate
AIM = Associate in Ministry
DM = Diaconal Minister
A/SP = Associate with Special Emphasis
contact Synod Office)

Mobility Status Key:

I = Interviewing
C = Calling
NV = New Vacancy
V = Vacancy
SC = Synod Call
TR = Transition process
P = Profile presented (receiving nominations)
TR/DO = Div for Outreach Transformation Process

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Northwest Washington Synod
5519 Phinney Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98103-5299

Return Service Requested

Soundings
January 2005

Serials Dept Library
2400 Ridge Road
Berkley CA 94709-1212